

Friday, September 19, 2025

No 1

**Ref: SC Metric Week October 5 – 11, 2025, Governor McMasters Metric Proclamation with opportunities for Students & Teachers**

Dear District Leaders and/or Math & Science Coordinators: **[PLEASE SHARE]**

***Celebrating Metric Week in South Carolina 2025 (October 5-11) is an especially important opportunity for K-12 students and teachers!***

Please announce and encourage your school and/or school district to participate in the many activities offered during Metric Week. Please forward this valuable resource to your teachers of science, math, or technology.

As you know, companies which will eventually employ many of our students are gradually producing products to metric system standards. This means that the *jobs of tomorrow will require employees to be able to use metric units.*

The U.S. is currently 50% metric. We are using a hybrid measuring system: (Metric & Customary)

There are **many resources** available for you, your teachers, and students:

Some easy-to-use ideas on celebrating Metric Week are available online at:

<http://scacademysci.org> or just type “South Carolina Academy of Science” (click on other, then pick Metric Week). and

[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/artsandsciences/centers\\_and\\_institutes/science\\_education/index.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/centers_and_institutes/science_education/index.php) or type Center for Science Education at University of South Carolina, (Select Other Resources for Teachers and Students, then click on Metric Week.) Check out other programs the Center for Science Education (CSE) offers: Like the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) and SC Region II Science & Engineering Fair. You can access information about all Science Fairs in SC at <http://scacademysci.org> (click on other, then pick Science Fairs).

We want you to know the opportunities offered to Teachers and Students by the National Institute of Science & Technology (NIST) Search:

<https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/metric-si> then Metric (SI) and pick. Also, United States Metric Association (USMA) Site <https://usma.org/> is a good site for information.

\*Have your students take the T/F quiz at usma.org. If 80% or better, we consider that good.

**Students try this and have fun!** [www.nist.gov/kids](http://www.nist.gov/kids)

See the following items attached to this email:

(1) Cover Letter, (2) SC 2025 Metric Proclamation, (3) National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) (***Opportunity for teachers & students***) and (4) Article by Don Jordan on key facts about the metric systems and how to teach metric to students. Also, Documents (1) – (4) attached as a single doc.

Other Documents that can be found on [South Carolina Academy of Science](#) website include:|

### **The following Web only**

- (5) The Scale of Things (metric and Nanotechnology)
- (6) Metric Test for upper Elementary and Middle School Students 2022
- (7) Correct usage of Metric Symbols
- (8) Metric True/False Test updated for 2022
- (9) Advantages of Teaching the Metric System pages = 8 2022
- (10) Example of a Wall Chart: Let your students design one for your School.
- (11) Questions that Challenge. Grades six and above.
- (12) Answer Key to questions that Challenge Grades six and above
- (13) SI Metric Prefixes and how to pronounce.
- (14) What is the Area of Your Skin in cm<sup>2</sup> (Great Activity for Students)
- (15) Printable 100 cm Measuring Tape
- (16) Instruction on How to make a Decimeter Cube or Liter Box Page 1
- (17) Instruction on How to make a Decimeter Cube or Liter Box Page 2
- (18) Template to use in the Construction of a Lite Box Page 1
- (19) Template to use in the Construction of a Lite Box Page 2 Need both templates 1 & 2
- (20) Metric activities for student's pages = 2

The South Carolina Metric Proclamation is distributed to all public and private schools in South Carolina and is recommended and approved by the South Carolina Academy of Science (SCAS), coordinated with the Office of Metric Programs at the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), part of the U.S Department of Commerce and the Center for Science Education at USC. Special thanks go to **Governor Henry McMaster** for his support for this worthwhile endeavor.

### **USMA Metric Scholarship Award for High School Seniors & Teachers**

**Eligibility** All US high school seniors are eligible to apply for the USMA Metric Scholarship Award. **How to apply** Read the student flyer and fill in the student application online. Do the same for Teachers. Click on: <https://usma.org/>

The USMA Site will be updated on October 1, 2025 for the 2026 National Metric Award

Sincerely,

Don Jordan, (R) USC, Center for Science Education (Math Specialist)

Attachments: (1) Cover Letter; (2) Metric Proclamation 2025 (printable version).  
(3) National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) (Opportunity for teachers & students) (4) Article by Don Jordan on key facts about the metric systems and how to teach metric to students.

Other documents (5) – (20) on website <http://scacademysci.org>

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the metric system, known as the International System of Units (SI), is a universal decimal-based measurement system developed to harmonize essential measurements that underpin science and technology; and

**WHEREAS,** the metric system was legalized for use by the United States Congress in 1866 and declared the preferred system of weights and measures for trade and commerce; and

**WHEREAS,** the development of the metric system as an international system has contributed to advances in global commerce, science, and technology; and

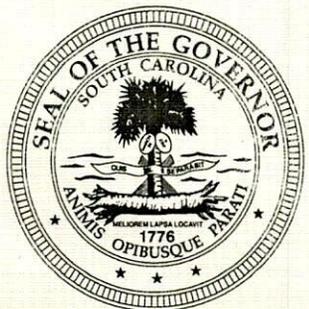
**WHEREAS,** National Metric Week calls attention to the educational and economic benefits of using the metric system; and

**WHEREAS,** teaching SI proficiency is fundamental to an informed citizenry, strengthens science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers, and is a linchpin for the development of a world class U.S. workforce of the future.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 5 - 11, 2025, as

### SOUTH CAROLINA METRIC WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the metric system.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry D. McMaster".

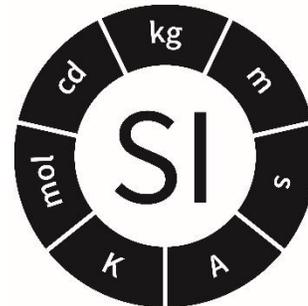
**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



**How to Access.** Search: <https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/metric-si>  
 On the **left** navigation go to *SI Education and Training* (There are many good options)

Under [SI Education and Training](#) explore the following:

- [Education Resources on the Metric System \(SI\)](#) – A curated collection of resources to enrich classroom curriculum and reinforce student learning during [Metric Week](#) and beyond.
- [SI Teacher Kits Available for Educators](#) – Request a *free* set of metric education classroom resources. Email: [TheSI@nist.gov](mailto:TheSI@nist.gov) (include your name, school, subject, grade level, phone number, and U.S. mailing address).
- [Everyday Estimation](#) – Approximation skills help interpret the world around us. Estimation skills are key to sensemaking and checking for reasonableness of a measurement result. The [Metric System Estimation Game](#) activity helps participants become familiar with SI measurements by practicing estimation skills.
- [SI Units Card Deck](#) – Familiarity with the elements and structure of the SI, including the relationships between defining constants, base and derived units, and [prefixes](#).
- [NIST Metric Trivia Quiz](#) – Test your metric system knowledge with this fun online quiz.



### Highlights for Teachers / Professional Development

Use <https://www.nist.gov/pml/owm/metric-si> (under Metric (SI) there is list of useful topics. Example: [Metric Kitchen](#) or [SI Education and Training](#).)

### Free Webinars

Attend Metric Program technical training and professional development courses. Explore the [Calendar of Events](#) to identify currently scheduled sessions, designed for 90-minutes (or less).

### NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers

[Apply](#) for the two-week workshop in July, featuring hands-on activities, lectures, tours, and visits with NIST scientists and engineers in their laboratories. See NIST website on how to apply, details and deadlines. Applications must be submitted through your school district or private school administration.



**(Be sure to explore this)**↓

Use the [Education](#) website [NIST Educational STEM Registry](#) (NEST-R) to discover Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math educational resources published by NIST. Learn how to [Discover NIST Education Resources](#). Search by free text and using the filtering system to locate the resources that are most applicable to

your instructional needs. Happy exploring! Contact: Metric Program, Use - [TheSI@NIST.gov](mailto:TheSI@NIST.gov)

## *The Metric System*

*Written by Dr. Don M. Jordan, Eastern Director of the United States Metric Association,  
Professor(R) Center for Science Education, Math specialist  
College of Arts & Sciences University of South Carolina*

### ***Did you know that...?***

*In establishing the Metric System, never has anything been more grand, simple, & coherent in all its parts that was produced by man.*

Metric minimizes the likelihood of error.

Metric does not have the numerous conversion factors of other systems.

Metric has one unit for a quantity.

Metric is legal, logical, and preferred.

***Between six months and two years of elementary arithmetic could be eliminated with the adoption of Metric System.***

### ***How to teach young people what they need to know about Metric!***

1. Teach using only the Metric System.
2. Use rulers and measuring tools that have only metric scale units.
3. Teach measurements and physical quantities using materials and examples that students can see and touch.
4. Select, estimate, compare and use appropriate units to measure: length (meter/centimeter); mass (kilogram/gram); volume (liter/milliliter) and temperature (degree / Celsius).
5. Teach by actively involving the students in measuring activities.

One Key Point to teaching metric to students.

***“Never convert between the customary system and the metric system.”***

When teaching metric pretend you only know metric. Do not show examples like a meter is about a yard. Instead show that a meter is about the length of a baseball bat or the distance from the floor to the center of a doorknob.

Use the “**8-9 Rule**”: Teach both systems {customary & metric} separately for eight months of the nine school-month year. Convert between the two systems during ninth month.

**Universities and Colleges** that educate elementary school teachers **should teach the metric system** and how to use it. Little time should be given to the Customary System. Teachers must know how to teach the Metric System and feel confident in doing so. The change to the metric system is **for all people** and all disciplines (not just science, engineering, and math).

We in the United States are 50% metric.

We have and use a hybrid measurement System.

Want to become a Certified Metric Specialist (CMS) Contact Don Jordan at [djordan@sc.edu](mailto:djordan@sc.edu)  
To apply and take the test costs nothing. If you pass there is a fee of \$50.00